

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01229 091134Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /160 W
-----092337 091249Z /45

R 091120Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5110
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, OPEC
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH OPEC SEC GEN JAIDAH

1. AFTER REPEATED SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES (DUE LARGELY
TO HIS ALMOST CONTINUOUS ABSENCE FROM VIENNA SINCE
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THE CARACAS CONFERENCE) I MET WITH OPEC SECRETARY
GENERAL JAIDAH FEB. 8. SESSION WAS DEVOTED LARGELY
TO GETTING ACQUAINTED AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT IT MAY
LEAD TO FURTHER MORE SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT. WE DID,
HOWEVER, TOUCH ON THREE POINTS OF INTEREST--OIL PRICES,
JAIDAH'S TENURE, AND US ENERGY LEGISLATION.

2. REGARDING PRICES, JAIDAH SAID THAT OIL IMPORTERS SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED SINCE OIL PRICES HAVE IN REALITY BEEN REDUCED 20 PER CENT THIS YEAR (I.E. 10 PER CENT THROUGH DEPRECIATION OF THE DOLLAR AND 10 PER CENT THROUGH INFLATION). HE ADDED THAT INFLATION IN THE GULF STATES WAS CONSIDERABLY WORSE, PERHAPS 20 PER CENT AND UP. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL, THE MANNER IN WHICH JAIDAH SPOKE ABOUT PRICES GAVE NO INDICATED OFFICIAL USE

CATION THAT HE EXPECTED AN INCREASE LATER IN THE YEAR.

3. WHEN I NOTED THAT TWO YEARS SEEMED A VERY SHORT TERM FOR OPEC'S TOP POST, JAIDAH AGREED, BUT THEN SAID THAT THE SHORTAGE OF EXPERIENCED OFFICIALS IN HIS COUNTRY WOULD REQUIRE HIM TO RETURN WHEN HIS TERM EXPIRES AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

4. REGARDING THE US APPROACH TO ITS ENERGY PROBLEM, JAIDAH WAS SOMEWHAT CRITICAL, SAYING THAT HE FELT WE ARE OVERLY ANXIOUS AND OVER-REACTING. EXPRESSING HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, AND ESPECIALLY ITS TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS, HE CITED SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE, AND SUGGESTED THAT TECHNOLOGY CHANGE WOULD PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENERGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEM THAN WE GAVE CREDIT FOR. HE ADDED THAT THIS, OF COURSE, CONSTITUTED A MAJOR LONGER RANGE CHALLENGE TO OPEC. WOLF

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